Jharsuguda Airport

*56.SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the repeated demand to operationalise the old airport of second World War period located at Jharsuguda in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the facilities to make Jharsuguda a commercially successful airport are available;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken some steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be operationalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Jharsuguda Airport in Orissa is a Non-operational airport.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal for development and operationalization of Jharsuguda Airport. In accordance with the recommendations of Feasibility Study submitted by M/s. RITES, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to develop this airport initially for ATR type of aircraft operations. However, action for further development of this airport will be considered after additional land measuring 815 acres is made available as per the Master Plan by the State Government of Orissa to AAI free of cost & free from all encumbrances.

BPL Households in the country

*57. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT is pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Below Poverty Line(BPL) households as on 1st January, 2008;

(b) how his Ministry had arrived at this figure;

(c) whether there is any proposal for New Survey to prepare correct list of BPL families; and

(d) if so, the details regarding BPL categorization in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The latest estimates of the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line is available for the

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.